

A free press is our most precious freedom in the United States. Without it, truth and justice become words without deeds. This is so fundamental, that I cannot understand how the FCC or Congress can consider the current changes in ownership of local television and radio stations. Monopolies are potentially dangerous in any field---but never more so than in the dispensing of information.

I strongly request that the FCC make changes that allow only one station to be owned in a given field by the same owner, and that a maximum number of stations owned country-wide be kept to ten. All you have to do is imagine most stations to be the opposite of your political preference to see how unfair it can become.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a political so-called documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Serving their own financial ledger works for some companies, but when the public owns the airwaves and serves those of all persuasions, a broadcaster must be held to higher standards. We need access to events about our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just the broadcasters. Thank you.